



**Snow White** is packed up and put away, and we are on to our next show, **Out of the Woods**, which has many familiar characters battling evil and darkness that is seeking to take over their kingdoms. It takes the letters to the churches in the book of Revelation and cleverly weaves them into a story that is a creative journey through end times. As the characters prepare for battle, the audience is reminded that we all must be vigilant, for the enemy is a great deceiver that will use anything he can to keep our focus away from Jesus Christ.

Fortunately, the Bible gives us another great list to memorize when it comes to standing firm in our faith. Can you guess which Bible list I'm referring to this time? Here's a hint...like the Fruits of the Spirit, the list is found toward the end of Paul's letter to the Ephesians. If you are thinking of the *Armor of God*, then you have guessed correctly!

In Ephesians 6:10, Paul declares, "A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power." I love that verse! We don't have to be strong in ourselves because our strength comes from God. Hallelujah! When we are weak, Jesus is strong, and His strength is enough to carry us through any battle. And because God knows the trial and temptations that we will face, he gives us another list to help us stand firm in the fight. He names each part of the armor that we need:

- the belt of truth (truth found in Jesus and in God's Word)
- the breastplate of righteousness (protecting our hearts and living rightly for God's glory)
- the shoes of peace (living and sharing the good news of the gospel wherever we are)
- the shield of faith (being sure of our hope in Christ, even though we don't see the whole picture)
- the helmet of salvation (believing that Jesus died for us and that His blood covers our sins)
- the sword of the Spirit (God's Holy Word written just for us - the Bible)

It is interesting to me that helmet, a protective head covering, is paired with salvation. I'm not a great scholar, but I don't think that this pairing is an accident. The world would tell us that everything is relative, wisdom is found everywhere but the Bible and that God doesn't even exist. Why a helmet of salvation? We have to protect our minds from worldly thinking and we have to know that we are saved, not by anything that we have done, but by believing in Jesus. His death and resurrection paid the price for our sins, and when we accept Him as our Lord and Savior then we have hope for today and a future with Him in heaven. We need each part of the armor of God, but the helmet of salvation is especially important to protect our minds from the enemy, so helmets on and heads up!

**KEY VERSE:** Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.

Ephesians 6:10-11 (ESV)